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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202473

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TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 202473

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, US
SUBJECT: OTTOWAY STORY ON ANGOLA
REF: KINSHASA 7510

FOR CHARGE WALKER

1. OTTOWAY STORY ON ANGOLA PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 24. STORY DID NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE GOING TO ANGOLA EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH ZAIRE. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:

2. QUOTE THE BIG POWERS OF THE EAST ARE ALREADY DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE WORSENING CONFLICT AND THOSE OF THE WEST MAY SOON BE DRAGGED INTO IT. THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA ARE EACH BACKING ONE OF THE MAIN CONTENDERS AND HAVE SENT THOUSANDS OF TONS OF ARMS. MEANWHILE, FRENCH ARMORED CARS SOLD TO ZAIRE ARE SHOWING UP AT THE WAR FRONT AND THERE IS A SIMILAR DANGER THAT AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT GIVEN TO ZAIRE'S ARMY WILL EVENTUALLY FINDITS WAY THERE AS WELL. UNQUOTE.
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3. QUOTE NEIGHBORING ZAIRE IS PRACTICALLY A PART OF THE STRUGGLE, PROVIDING MILITARY AND LOGISTICAL BACKING TO ONE OF THE NATIONALIST GROUPS WHILE ENCOURAGING A SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN THE ISOLATED ENCLAVE OF CABINDA...UNQUOTE.

4. QUOTE THE NATIONAL FRONT (FNLA) IS ALMOST THE EXACT REVERSE OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT (MPLA) - NON-IDEOLOGICAL TO THE EXTREME AND VEHEMENTLY ANTI-SOVIET AND ANTI-COMMUNIST. IT IS ACCUSED OF BEING PRO-WESTERN, EVEN A 'STOOGE OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM', BUT SO FAR THERE IS LITTLE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF DIRECT AMERICAN SUPPORT, WHILE IT IS CLEAR THAT CHINA AND ZAIRE ARE PROVIDING MASSIVE AID TO THE POPULAR MOVEMENT. UNQUOTE.

5. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED.

6. DEPARTMENT IN PROCESS OF DEVELOPING OVER-ALL PRESS GUIDANCE RE U.S. INVOLVEMENT WHICH, WHEN APPROVED, WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU. INGERSOLL

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